

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF ALABAMA
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NEWS YOU CAN USE

Effective February 7, 2005, Civil filing fee will increase from \$150 to \$250

On December 8, 2004, the President signed into law the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2005, which included a provision increasing the civil filing fee from \$150 to \$250.

This change in the civil filing fee will become effective February 7, 2005, 60 days from the date the bill was signed into law by the President. The Act increased the filing fee for civil actions prescribed by 28 U.S.C. § 1914(a) from \$150 to \$250. The civil filing fee was last increased in 1996 when it was adjusted from \$120 to \$150.

The filing fee for a writ of habeas corpus will continue to be \$5.

The E-Government Act of 2003, as amended August 2, 2004

In compliance with the E-Government Act of 2002, as amended on August 2, 2004, and to promote electronic access to case files while also protecting personal privacy and other legitimate interests, this Court has issued Misc. Ord. No. **2:04-mc-3228** (available on our web site at www.almd.uscourts.gov.)

In summary, parties to any litigation shall refrain from including, or shall *partially* redact where inclusion is necessary, the following personal *data* identifiers from all pleadings filed with the court, including exhibits to pleadings and other documents, whether filed electronically or by paper, unless otherwise ordered by the court:

1. **Social Security Numbers** - limited to the last four digits.
2. **Names of Minor Children** - only the initials of that child should be used.
3. **Dates of Birth** - only the year should be used.
4. **Financial Account Numbers** - only the last four digits of these numbers.
5. **Addresses of Individuals** - only the city and state should be used.

Any party wishing to file a document containing the personal data identifiers listed above may do so using one of two (a or b) methods:

- a. File a reference list under seal.
- b. File an unredacted version of the document under seal.

The responsibility for redacting these personal identifiers rests solely with counsel and the parties who should not include sensitive information in any document filed with the court unless the information is necessary and relevant to the case. It is the sole responsibility of counsel and the parties to insure that all pleadings and documents filed with court comply with this order concerning the redaction of personal data identifiers.